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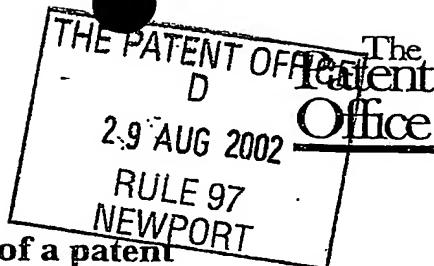
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Dated 3 October 2003

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30AUG02 E744645-3 002835
P01/7700 0.00-0220144.0**Request for grant of a patent**

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

HE/P500719

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0220144.0

12 2 2002 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

Marcus PLUMMER
29 Shirley Road
Roath Park
Cardiff
CF23 5HL

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

8286171001

~~FE~~

4. Title of the invention

Sealing Gaps between Floor Boards etc

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

URQUHART-DYKES & LORD

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

Three Trinity Court
21-27 Newport Road
CARDIFF
CF24 0AA

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

1644025

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d)

No (A1 29.9.02)

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description	3
Claim(s)	2
Abstract	1
Drawing(s)	1

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

-

Any other documents (please specify)

-

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

URQUHART DYKES & LORD

Date

28th August 2002

11. 12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Huw Evans - 029 2048 7993

Warning

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Notes

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DUPLICATE

Sealing Gaps between Floor Boards etc

This invention relates to sealing gaps between floor boards and other panel members.

Traditionally, floors in houses have been constructed from elongate planks of wood laid end-to-end and side-by-side 5 to cover the floor area.

Many old houses have ground floors which are suspended over a ventilated cavity or cellar. A disadvantage of this is that cool draughts permeate through gaps, which over time appear between adjacent floor boards.

10 Laying carpet or another floor covering over the floor boards helps to alleviate the above-mentioned problem. However, it is presently fashionable to have bare wooden floors and this brings the associated disadvantage of cold draughts.

It is known to fill gaps between adjacent floor boards 15 with paper or another sealant. However, this looks unsightly and is relatively easily dislodged during expansion and contraction of the gaps with changes in humidity and/or temperature.

I have now devised a method of sealing a gap between 20 adjacent panel members which alleviates the above-mentioned problems.

In accordance with this invention there is provided a method of sealing a gap between adjacent panel members, the method comprising providing an elongate strip of resiliently 25 flexible material, compressing the strip transverse its longitudinal axis to fold the strip about a line which extends longitudinally thereof intermediate its opposite side edges, inserting the folded strip fully into the gap to be sealed by transposing the strip transverse its longitudinal access, and 30 allowing the strip to partially recover its shape such that the opposite side edges of the strip engage respective opposite side edges of the adjacent panel members.

The compressed strip exerts a bias against the side edges of the adjacent panel members, thereby holding the strip 35 firmly in-situ. The strip completely fills the gap between the adjacent panel members and thus prevents draughts from

permeating through the gap. The strip also has the advantage that it is able to fill gaps which vary in width along their length.

The strip is inexpensive to manufacture, for example by 5 extruding a plastics material, and is straightforward to fit.

Preferably a strip is chosen having a colour which closely resembles the colour of the panel members. Alternatively, the strip may be transparent.

In one embodiment, the strip may be V-shaped in cross 10 section, with opposite sides of the V being brought together during insertion of the strip into the gap.

In an alternative embodiment, the strip may be flat with a pre-formed line of weakness extending along its length about which the strip can be folded. This arrangement has the 15 advantage that the strip can be provided on a roll and cut to the desired length by the user.

Also, in accordance with this invention there is provided a panel assembly comprising two side-by-side panel members having a gap therebetween and a sealing strip filling 20 the gap, wherein the strip comprises an elongate piece of resiliently flexible plastics material folded about a line which extends longitudinally thereof intermediate its opposite side edges and which has its opposite longitudinal side edges biased against the side edges of the respective adjacent panel 25 members.

An embodiment of this invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a transverse sectional view through a 30 sealing strip for use in sealing the gap between adjacent floor boards in accordance with this invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view demonstrating how a gap between adjacent floor boards is sealed in accordance with this invention; and

35 Figure 3 is a sectional view through adjacent floor boards having a gap therebetween which has been sealed in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to Figure 1 of the drawings, there is shown an elongate strip 10 of resiliently flexible transparent plastics material formed on each of its opposite sides with a longitudinally-extending groove 11 which extends intermediate 5 opposite side edges of the strip.

Referring to Figure 2 of the drawings, the strip 10 is provided on a roll 12. In use, the strip can be used to seal a gap 13 between adjacent floor boards 14 by folding the strip at the free end of the roll 12 longitudinally of it self into 10 a V-shaped formation. The folded end of the strip is then inserted transverse itself into one end of the gap 13, with the folded portion being inserted foremost. The user then presses the folded strip fully into the gap, as shown, whereupon the strip attempts to recover its shape, thereby causing the 15 opposite side edges of the strip to be biased against the side edges of the respective adjacent floor boards 14.

Once the gap has been fully sealed, the user can cut the roll and use the remaining portion to seal further gaps.

Referring to Figure 3 of the drawings, the strip 20 provides an effective and inconspicuous seal between adjacent floor boards 14. It will be appreciated that the strip is extremely inexpensive to manufacture and is relatively straightforward to fit.

Claims

1. A method of sealing a gap between adjacent panel members, the method comprising providing an elongate strip of resiliently flexible material, compressing the strip transverse to its longitudinal axis to fold the strip about a line which extends longitudinally thereof intermediate its opposite side edges, inserting the folded strip fully into the gap to be sealed by transposing the strip transverse to its longitudinal access, and allowing the strip to partially recover its shape such that the opposite side edges of the strip engage respective opposite side edges of the adjacent panel members.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which a strip is chosen having a colour which closely resembles the colour of the panel members.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which a transparent strip is chosen.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which a strip is chosen which is V-shaped in cross section, with opposite sides of the V being brought together during insertion of the strip into the gap.
- 20 5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which a strip is chosen which is flat with a pre-formed line of weakness extending along its length about which the strip can be folded.
- 25 6. A method of sealing a gap between adjacent panel members, the method being substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
7. A panel assembly comprising two side-by-side panel members having a gap therebetween and a sealing strip filling the gap, wherein the strip comprises an elongate piece of

resiliently flexible plastics material folded about a line which extends longitudinally thereof intermediate its opposite side edges and which has its opposite longitudinal side edges biased against the side edges of the respective adjacent panel
5 members.

8. A panel assembly as claimed in claim 7, in which the strip has a colour which closely resembles the colour of the panel members.

9. A panel assembly as claimed in claim 7, in which the
10 strip is transparent.

10. A panel assembly as claimed in any of claims 7 to 9, in which the strip is V-shaped in cross section in its as-moulded condition.

11. A panel assembly as claimed in any of claims 7 to 9, in
15 which the strip is flat with a pre-formed line of weakness extending along its length about which the strip can be folded.

12. A panel assembly substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Abstract

A gap between adjacent floor boards 14 can be sealed using an elongate strip 10 of resiliently flexible material, which is compressed transverse its longitudinal axis and fully 5 inserted into the gap 13 to be sealed by transposing the strip 10 transverse its longitudinal access, and allowing the strip 10 to partially recover its shape, such that the opposite side edges of the strip 10 engage respective opposite side edges of the adjacent floor boards 14. The strip 10 thus provides an 10 effective and inconspicuous seal between adjacent floor boards 14.

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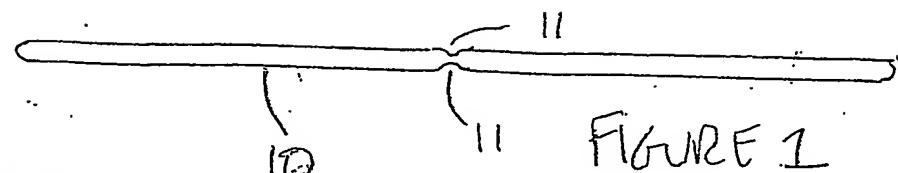


FIGURE 1

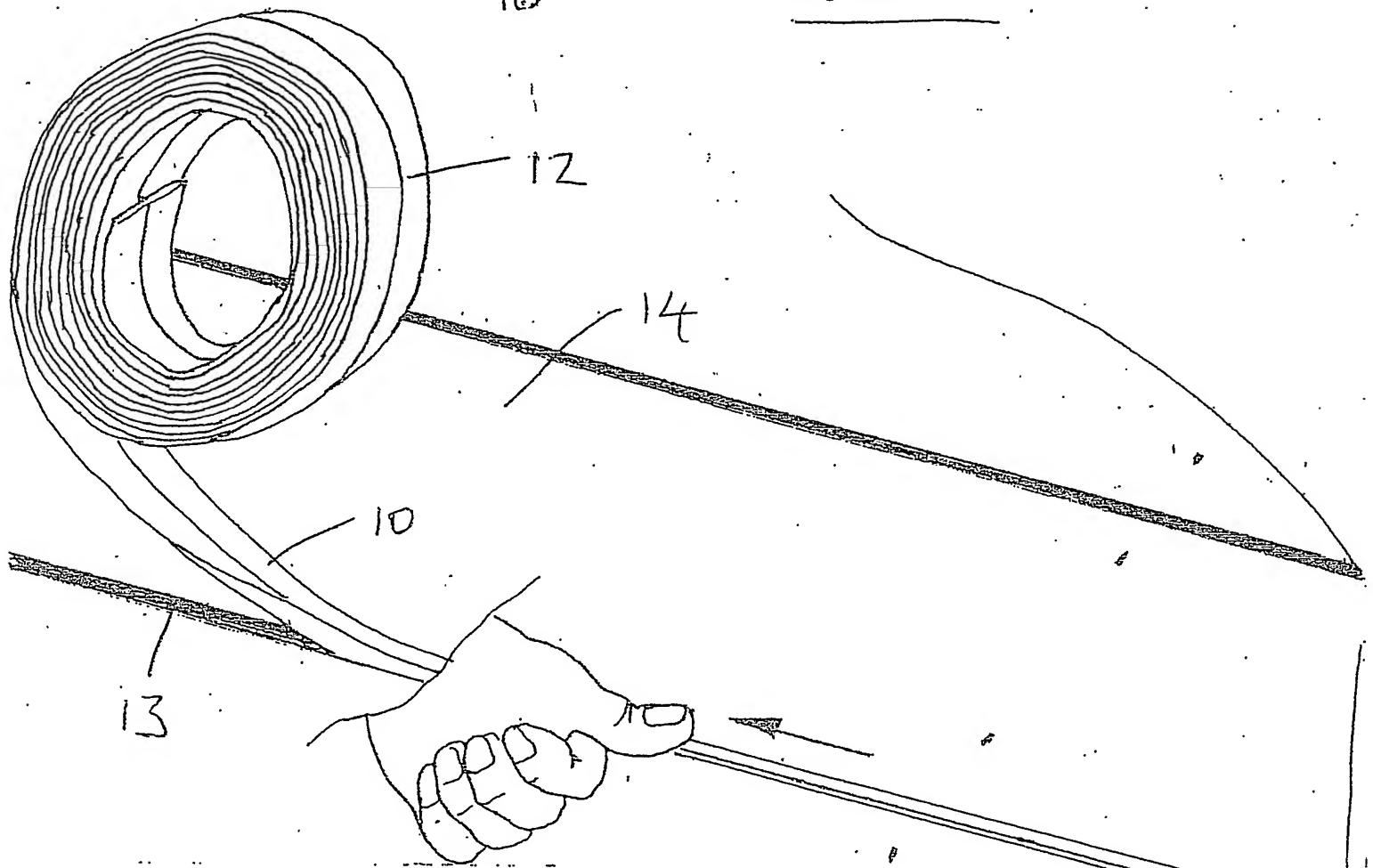
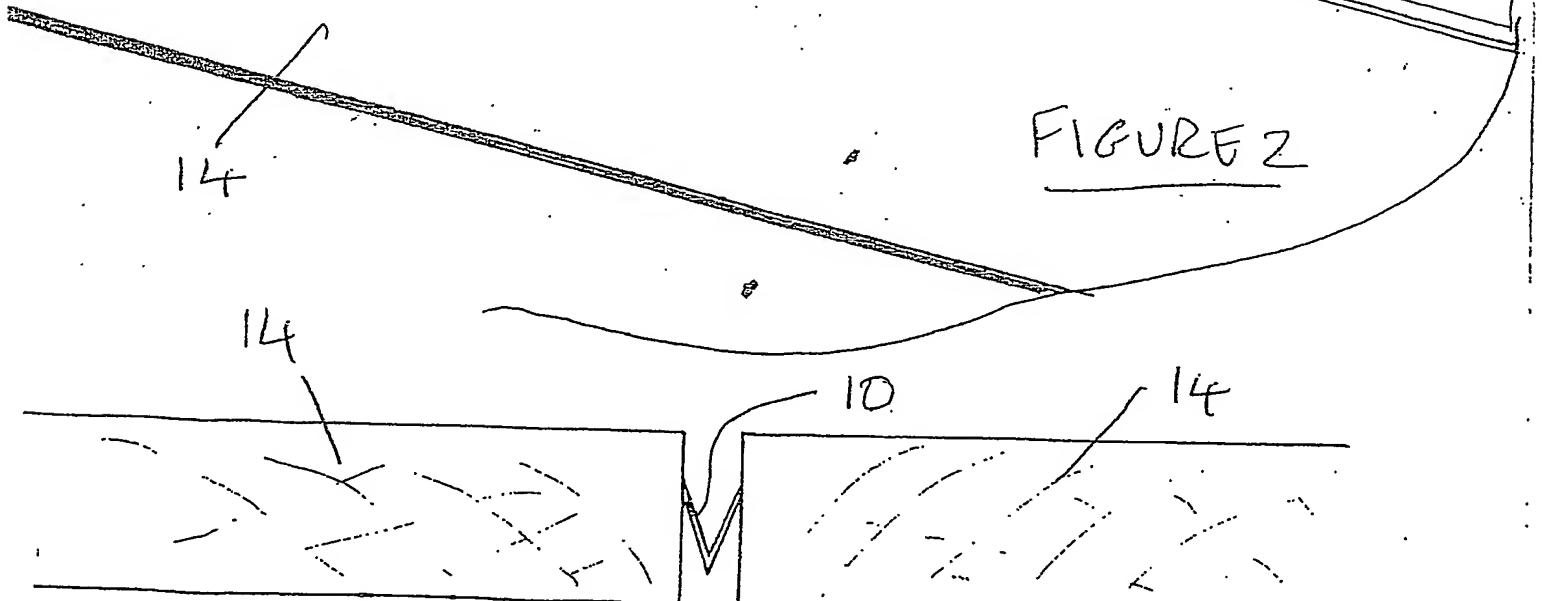


FIGURE 2



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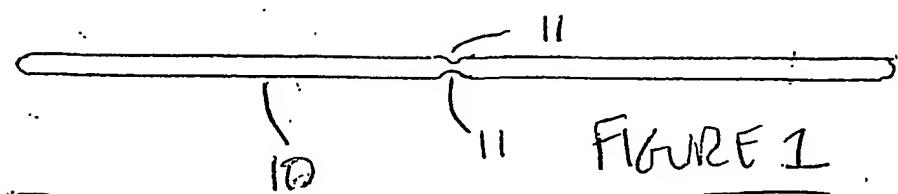


FIGURE 1

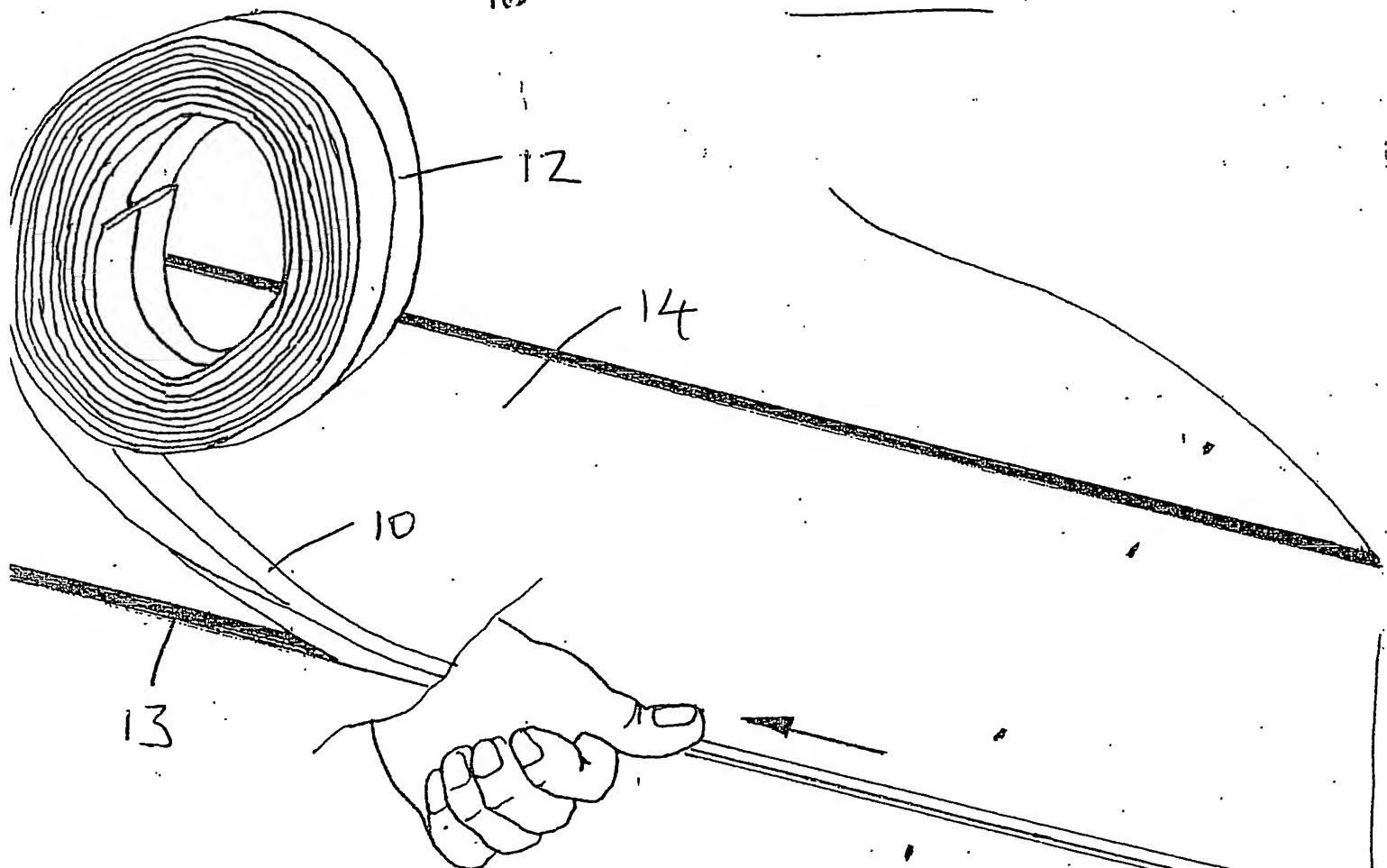


FIGURE 2

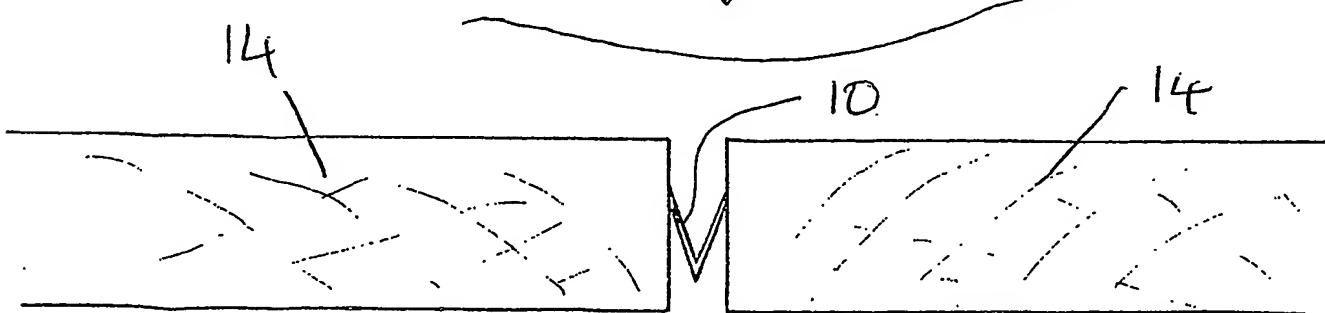
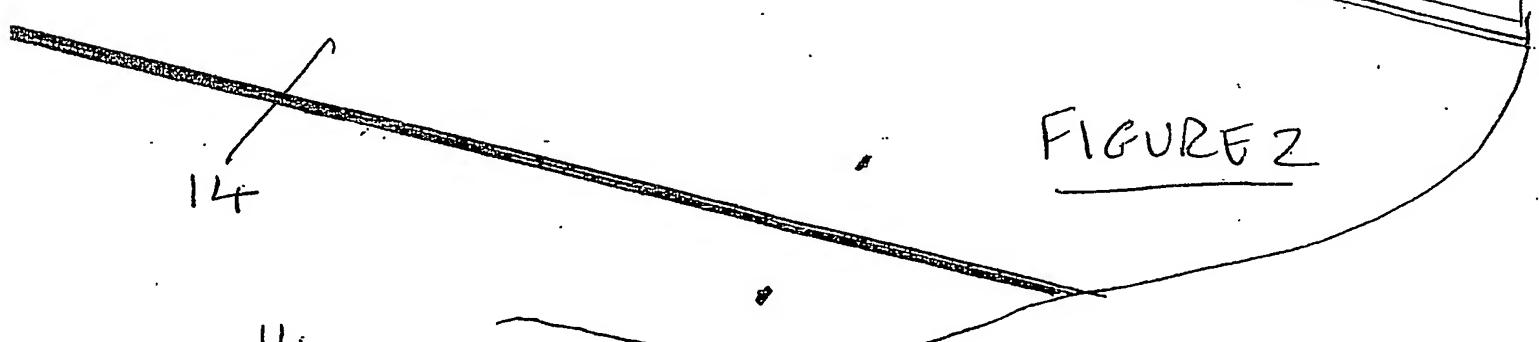


FIGURE 3

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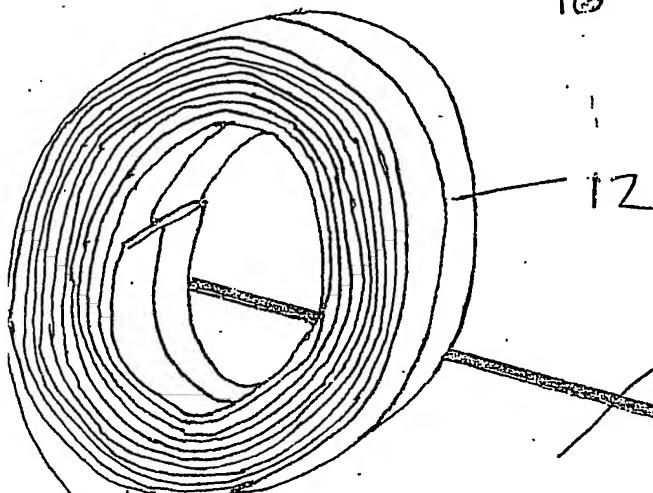
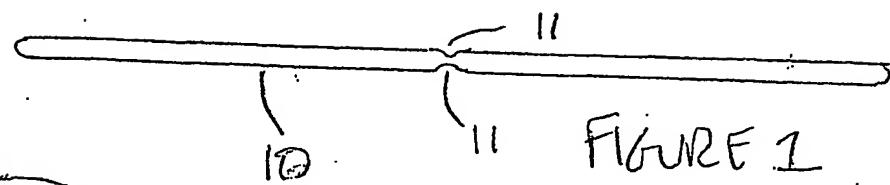


FIGURE 2

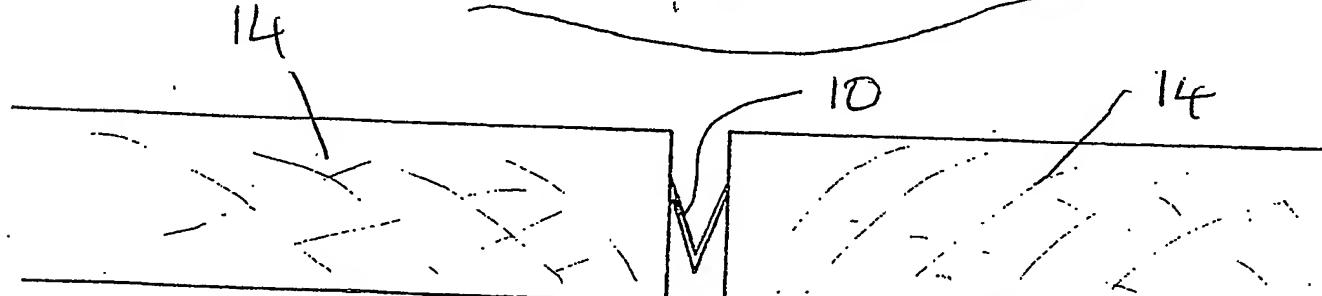
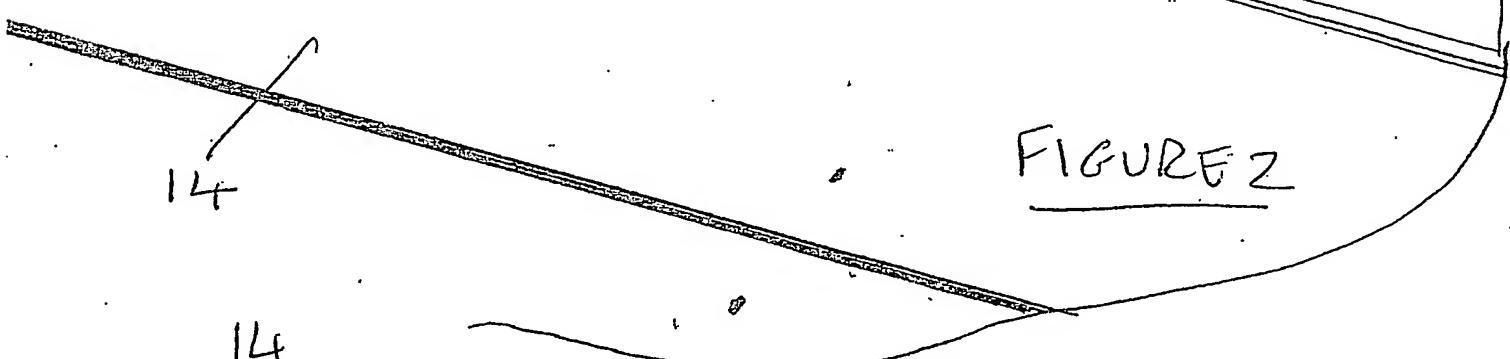


FIGURE 2